The Governor presented 23 awards: two Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service, one Excellence in Leadership Award, ten Group Awards for Meritorious Conduct to teams of firefighters, ten Medals of Valor to individual firefighters, and one Medal of Honor to Worcester Firefighter Christopher Roy, posthumously. The Stephen D. Coan Fire Marshal Award was presented to three departments.

ANDOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
MULTIPLE GAS EXPLOSIONS &
LAWRENCE FIRE DEPARTMENT
NORTH ANDOVER FIRE DEPARTMENT
AFTERMATH

Nominees(s): Andover Fire Department

Chief Michael Mansfield
Deputy Chief Albert DeDotto Jr.
Deputy Chief Scott Gibson
Deputy Chief Kyle Murphy
Deputy Chief Keith Weightman
Lieutenant Ryan Beal
Lieutenant Robert Dalton
Lieutenant John Gangi
Lieutenant Jeffrey Gaunt
Lieutenant Thomas V. Kennedy III
Lieutenant James L. Landry Jr.
Lieutenant Jameson Lockhart
Lieutenant William Loehr
Lieutenant Christopher Morgese
Lieutenant Robert Stabile
Lieutenant Barry Thornton
Lieutenant Ian Timmons
Lieutenant Brian Wright
Firefighter James Bancroft
Firefighter Timothy Bartlett
Firefighter Matthew Beirne
Firefighter Ryan Beirne
Firefighter Jonathan Booth
Firefighter Philip Boulanger
Firefighter Matthew Burke
Firefighter Michael Byerley
Firefighter Richard Capano
Firefighter Kevin Carney
Firefighter Todd Collins
Firefighter Jeffrey Condon
Firefighter Jason Cunningham
Firefighter Brian DeCourcey
Firefighter Salvatore DeNaro
Firefighter John DiZaglio

Firefighter David Eulie
Firefighter Kevin Farragher
Firefighter Garrett Ferris
Firefighter Brian Flanagan
Firefighter Michael Giannasi
Firefighter Daniel Guillet
Firefighter Donald Hinckley
Firefighter John Hines
Firefighter Shawn Kelley
Firefighter Richard Krafton
Firefighter Brian Landry
Firefighter Andrew Loonie
Firefighter John McMullen
Firefighter Carl Morrison
Firefighter Jacqueline Moses
Firefighter Joseph Murphy
Firefighter Robert Murphy
Firefighter Michael Oteri
Firefighter David Pas
Firefighter Clifford Pattullo
Firefighter Robert Pelletier, Jr
Firefighter Todd Richardson
Firefighter John Senee
Firefighter Stephen Stabile
Firefighter Michael Surette
Firefighter Eric Teichert
Firefighter Matthew Trede
Firefighter Michael Uttley
Firefighter Scott Weightman
Firefighter Christine Wright
Firefighter Joseph Cahill
Executive Assistant Marcie Jacobson
Administrative Assistant Joan LeMieux
Nominees(s): Lawrence Fire Department

Chief Brian Moriarty
Deputy Chief Kevin Loughlin
Deputy Chief John McInnis
Deputy Chief John Meaney
Deputy Chief Robert Wilson
Captain Michael Armano
Captain Mike Blanchard
Captain Patrick Delaney
Captain James Driscoll
Captain David Fleming
Captain Paul Hamel
Captain Wayne LeDuc
Captain Michael Maglio
Captain Frank Martin
Captain Matthew Nadeau
Captain Tara Reardon
Captain Eric Zahn
Lieutenant David Amero
Lieutenant Jason Belkus
Lieutenant Peter Bernard
Lieutenant James Bizeur
Lieutenant Darin Cassista
Lieutenant John Duggan
Lieutenant David Ferris
Lieutenant Dana Feugill
Lieutenant James Flynn
Lieutenant Michael Fornesi
Lieutenant Johnny Jimenez
Lieutenant Patrick LaFrance
Lieutenant Rene Lavallee
Lieutenant Ryan Lavallee
Lieutenant Stephen Lefebvre
Lieutenant Ian McDermott
Lieutenant Graeme Millar
Lieutenant Joseph Murphy
Lieutenant Edward Nutter
Lieutenant Matthew Peek
Lieutenant Daniel Sanzi
Lieutenant Corey Scott
Lieutenant Bernard Trainor
Firefighter Jose Abreu
Firefighter James Amato
Firefighter Esteban Arias
Firefighter Miguel Baez

Firefighter Thomas Baggett
Firefighter Shane Battle
Firefighter Jeffrey Beauregard
Firefighter David Blanchette
Firefighter Diogenes Blanco
Firefighter Giovanni Bonet
Firefighter Timothy Boutin
Firefighter Edward Burke
Firefighter Michael Buzzell
Firefighter Mike Delaney
Firefighter Shane Donahue
Firefighter Steven Donovan
Firefighter Patrick Driscoll
Firefighter Michael Espinola
Firefighter Felix Fernandez
Firefighter Jesus Flores
Firefighter Dana Francis
Firefighter Gabriel Fraval
Firefighter Elvis Frias
Firefighter Michael Garcia
Firefighter Juan Gonzalez
Firefighter Manny Gutierrez
Firefighter Michael Guzman
Firefighter Eric Humphrey
Firefighter Peter Humphrey
Firefighter Roger Jameson
Firefighter Jean Jimenez
Firefighter Jay Johnstone
Firefighter Raymond Kenyon
Firefighter Paul King
Firefighter Chris King
Firefighter Cyril Lane
Firefighter Ronald Lavallee
Firefighter Mark Lynch
Firefighter Joseph Maloney
Firefighter Gary Mannion Jr.
Firefighter Thomas Marino
Firefighter Adam Marino
Firefighter Jeffery Martin
Firefighter Kevin McCarthy
Firefighter Matthew McInnis
Firefighter Anibal Mendez
Firefighter Richard Mendonca
Firefighter James Nickerson
2019 “Firefighter of the Year” Award Recipients
Alphabetically by Fire Department

Firefighter Deb Nickerson
Firefighter Chad Nickerson
Firefighter Luis Nova
Firefighter Jose Ortiz
Firefighter Jamiel Ortiz
Firefighter William Pagan
Firefighter Otoniel Pedrosa
Firefighter Jose Perez
Firefighter Steven Poley
Firefighter Brian Raineri
Firefighter Felix Reyes
Firefighter Rodney Rivera
Firefighter Ignacio Rodriguez
Firefighter Federico Rosario
Firefighter Pascual Ruiz
Firefighter Jason Ruiz
Firefighter Hector Santiago
Firefighter Daniel Sirois
Firefighter Daniel Sullivan
Firefighter Sean Sullivan
Firefighter Dave Swarbrick
Firefighter Mike Swarbrick
Firefighter Patrick Sweeney
Firefighter Ray Torrissi
Firefighter Francis Trinidad
Firefighter Alexander Vargas
Firefighter Wilson Ventura
Firefighter Jeffery Young
Firefighter Robert Zahn
Firefighter Jose Zamora
Lieutenant Paul Maccarone, Retired
Dispatcher Thomas Arcand
Dispatcher Carrie Donovan
Dispatcher Lawrence Foote
Dispatcher Sy Uliano
Electrical Inspector Kevin Misuraca
Fire Electrician Julio Colon
Fire Electrician Jeffrey DiDomenico
Fire Electrician Jorge Martinez
Office Manager Maureen Gaffney
Secretary Diana Velazquez
Superintendent of Apparatus Garrett Coscia

Nominees(s): North Andover Fire Department
Fire Chief William McCarthy
Deputy Fire Chief Graham Rowe
Lieutenant Michael Beirne
Lieutenant Jeffrey Gartside
Lieutenant David Hebert
Lieutenant Jeffrey Judge
Lieutenant Robert Kilcoyne
Lieutenant Matthew Lacolla
Lieutenant Timothy Mcguire
Lieutenant Craig Nussbaum
Lieutenant John Weir
Firefighter Robert Crane
Firefighter Jeffrey Crosby
Firefighter Matthew Davis
Firefighter Jeffrey Deschenes
Firefighter Christopher Dufresne
Firefighter Shawn Dufresne
Firefighter Brian Freeman
Firefighter Rob Hardacre
Firefighter Scot Harris
Firefighter Chris Holland
Firefighter Elizabeth Iminski
Firefighter Kyle Kobierski
Firefighter James Loisou
Firefighter Kevin Lundy
Firefighter William Lynch
Firefighter Nicholas Martone
Firefighter Ian McAlister
Firefighter Jonathan McCarthy
Firefighter John McClellan
Firefighter Ronald McNutt
Firefighter Andres Mencia
Firefighter Daniel Napoli
Firefighter Dann Nicolosi
Firefighter Ryan Nicolosi
Firefighter Jason Ouellette
Firefighter Nicholas Padeilaro
firefighter Daniel Pas
Firefighter Neil Patnaude
Firefighter Sean Powers
Firefighter Corey Pramas
Firefighter Michael Risacher
Firefighter Steve Risacher
Firefighter Christopher Rowan
2019 “Firefighter of the Year” Award Recipients
Alphabetically by Fire Department

Firefighter Daniel Ryan  Firefighter Matthew Twiss
Firefighter Matthew Sifferlen  Firefighter James White
Firefighter Barry Sullivan  Firefighter Blake Zwinggi
Firefighter Scott Swiniarski  Administrative Secretary Diane
Firefighter Ryan Titcomb  Morrison

On September 13, 2018, several explosions and fires erupted in quick succession in an area that spanned Andover, Lawrence and North Andover. One was fatal. Firefighters responded quickly to each incident, running from one to the next, not knowing exactly what was happening. It quickly became clear that these were gas explosions related to some gas main work. From that first day and first long night of darkness in these communities through and the many months afterwards, every aspect of fire department operations were involved in the response and recovery. Coordinating the resources needed to respond and recover, making sure that interim solutions were safe, that people learned how to stay safe with alternative heating and cooking or living situations, collaborating among fire departments and with municipal departments, federal and state agencies, service groups and others involved every member of these three fire departments. This was an unusual incident that demanded the highest level of performance by each member, many of whom were also personally affected by the long gas outage.

Award(s): Stephen D. Coan State Fire Marshal

BOSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT  BUILDING FIRE

Nominee(s):
Firefighter Patrick S. Callahan

It was shortly after 8 p.m. when Boston firefighters arrived at a 2-alarm fire with smoke showing from the second floor. Firefighter Patrick Callahan saw a woman and child in a smoke filled window on the third floor. He pulled a ground ladder and raised it to the window with the help of his officer. With heavy smoke getting worse, Firefighter Callahan went up the ladder to reach the mother and young child. The ladder was five feet short, the child was crying and the mom very distressed. Firefighter Callahan anchored himself to the second from the top rung, reached up and was able to convince the mom to give him the child. He brought the little boy down the ladder to safety and soon the mother was rescued too and the family united.

Award(s): Valor
Boston Fire Department  Building Fire

Nominee(s):
Lieutenant Paul McCarthy  Firefighter William Joyce
Firefighter Michael Gormley  Firefighter John-Patrick McManus

The fire was spreading rapidly as Boston fire crews arrived to a South End apartment building during a fall nor'easter on October 27. The first arriving firefighters saw five people trapped on the upper floors and hanging out of the rear windows. Lt. McCarthy, and Firefighters Gormley, Joyce and McManus of Ladder 10 positioned the truck’s aerial bucket between two buildings, extended a 35-foot-ladder and made multiple rescues. The crew then entered the third and fourth floors under high heat and limited visibility to search the premises and make sure there were no additional victims. This fire rose to seven alarms and 100 occupants were displaced, mostly college and graduate students.

Award(s): Group Meritorius Conduct

Everett Fire Department  Building Fire

Nominee(s):
Deputy Chief Scott Dalrymple  Firefighter Josh Doyon
Firefighter Chad Bailey  Firefighter Craig Hardy
Firefighter Christopher Dockery  Firefighter Joseph Quinn, ret.

It was July 13, 2018, when Everett firefighters responded to a report of a structure fire, which quickly went to 3-alarms. The building was an illegal 3-family with 19 occupants. Told on arrival that a woman was trapped on the second floor, then Lieutenant Scott Dalrymple (pron) and Firefighter Josh Doyon (doy-on) entered through the front door. Thick smoke and high heat pushed them back down the stairs seconds before a flashover consumed the hallway. Both men emerged from the hall on fire and Firefighter Doyon (doy-on) dragged Lieutenant Dalrymple (pron) outside, extinguishing them both. The rest of the crew located the woman on the second floor rear roof and rescued her over a ladder. Both Lieutenant Dalrymple (pron) and Firefighter Doyon (doy-on) suffered severe burns, with Firefighter Firefighter Doyon (doy-on) released the next day and Lt. Dalrymple (pron) undergoing several surgeries and finally returning to work this past February.

Award(s): Valor (Dalrymple, Doyon), Group Meritorius Conduct
It was early morning last December 13, when multiple companies from Fall River Fire arrived to a rollover on Route 24. First on the scene crews found a badly crushed motor vehicle with the driver still inside and a 12,000-gallon tanker truck leaking gasoline and its driver lying in the road nearby. Crews worked quickly, putting themselves in extreme danger because of the leaking fuel, and were able to remove the driver from the crushed vehicle. He was transported to a Rhode Island Hospital and survived. The driver of the tanker truck had died and the crews moved his body to a safe position. They then laid foam on the ground to prevent the ignition of the gasoline and to prevent contamination. An estimated 200 gallons of gasoline spilled on Route 24 that day.

Award(s): Group Meritorious Conduct

It was New Year’s Day when members of the Fall River Fire Department responded to the Four Winds Estates for a report that a vehicle had driven into a building. This property is a very large three-story apartment building with at least 30 units. Upon arrival, crews reported heavy smoke on all three floors. The car had driven straight into the utility room, rupturing the main natural gas service. The ruptured line ignited, and the fire was quickly spreading. As the crews started to attack the fire and shut off the gas, they realized there were two occupants still in the vehicle. The car was wedged into the room with fire surrounding it. While crews held back the
fire and cut the roof of the car, Lt. Schofield and Firefighters Correia and Cusick, removed the seriously injured occupants. Unfortunately, neither occupant survived.

Award(s): Valor (Correia, Cusick, Schofield), Group Meritorius Conduct

FITCHBURG FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nominee(s):
Captain Patrick J. Roy

Captain Patrick Roy, a 13-year veteran of the Fitchburg Fire Department, is committed to helping his fire service colleagues through education and prevention. He often takes newly appointed firefighters to purchase their gear and volunteers to coordinate funerals for active and retired Fitchburg firefighters. His powerful personal story of losing his own father, a firefighter, to occupational cancer makes him a passionate advocate. He's written FEMA grants that have resulted in nearly $700,000 so that all Fitchburg firefighters have two sets of personal protective equipment and for a new heavy rescue truck for the regional tech rescue team. However, his greatest achievement may be what he has done to combat occupational cancer in the fire service. Captain Roy has taught more than 130 classes to firefighters across the state about the dangers of occupational cancer and how to better protect and prevent the disease. In 2018, he spearheaded a fundraiser to purchase industrial strength turnout gear dryers. He raised $28,000 for the department to purchase three of these dryers so that firefighters can wash and dry their turnout gear at the station and not take the gear and cancer-causing carcinogens into their cars and homes.

Award(s): Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service

REVERE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nominee(s):
Lieutenant Sean Griffin
Firefighter Frank Trichilo
Firefighter Paul McInnis

On April 16, a box alarm was struck for a motor vehicle accident on Route 1A in Revere, with reports of multiple people trapped inside a vehicle that had veered off the road into the Pines River. Engine 5 was first on the scene and Lieutenant Sean Griffin instructed Firefighter Frank Trichilo to prepare the hose line flotation equipment while he and Firefighter Paul McInnis started down to the shoreline. The vehicle was nearly submerged and with the airbags deployed it was hard to see inside. Witnesses said an occupant was still inside. With the situation rapidly deteriorating, Lieutenant Griffin and Firefighter McInnis entered the water with no wet suits, just their Class B uniforms, while Firefighter Trichilo assisted from the shore. Lieutenant Griffin and Firefighter Trichilo waded out 25-feet in the 43-degree water. It was windy and they were wading through
water about five feet deep. They reached the submerged vehicle and were able to open the driver’s side door and get the person out. The driver was disoriented, injured and weak, but alive. They placed him on his back and took him safely to shore where he was treated and then transported to the emergency room for further evaluation. They conducted a secondary search for additional occupants but none were found.

Award(s): Valor (Griffin, McInnis), Group Meritorious Conduct

ROCHESTER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nominee(s):
Firefighter/EMT Andrew Weigel
Firefighter/Paramedic Jessica Vinjerud

The Brotherhood Ride began 11 years ago as a tribute to the “Charleston 9,” nine firefighters who lost their lives in Charleston, SC, on June 18, 2007. First responders wanted to honor these firefighters that would never go home to their families. The inaugural bicycle ride was from Naples, FL, to Charleston, SC. Since then, the event has grown each year with rides making different stops to remember fallen firefighters and police officers who have died in the line of duty in the prior year. Rochester Firefighter/EMT Andrew Weigel has participated in the Brotherhood Ride for the past four years. In 2017, he and Firefighter/Paramedic Jessica Vinjerud formed the Southern New England Chapter of the Brotherhood Ride in memory of their good friend New Bedford Firefighter Robert Lavalle who died from occupational cancer. For the 2018 ride, the team rode 350 miles in five days. All participants are active fire and police officers. Fundraising is done throughout the year and the following year, the riders meet with the families of the fallen to present a monetary donation. All funds raised benefit the families and the riders often stay at fire stations along the way.

Award(s): Norman Knight Award for Excellence in Community Service Group Award

ROCKLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT

Nominee(s):
Chief Scott Duffey
Deputy Chief Wooley
Captain Thomas Heaney
Firefighter Richard Furlong Jr.
Firefighter Jonathan Hickey
Firefighter Scott Margolis
Firefighter Liam O’Flaherty
Firefighter Marc Oshry
Firefighter Daniel Rice

Last November 16, the entire on-duty Rockland Fire Department responded to a call for a structure fire with a person trapped. The crew found a teenage girl screaming for help from a third-floor window of a 3-story multi-family home. She was surrounded by thick smoke on all sides. Arriving on Ladder 1 and unable to deploy the aerial ladder Firefighter Richard Furlong grabbed a 24-foot ground ladder, carried it over to the house, and quickly started up. The girl disappeared, but Firefighter Furlong was able to coax her back to the window and guide her down the ladder to waiting EMS. During this time, Engine 1 was pushing through the near
blackout conditions on the third floor and found a second occupant, still on the phone with 911, and helped her out of the building. Six area fire departments provided mutual aide to this 2-alarm fire, and both occupants were released from the hospital without injury. The cause of the fire was the improper disposal of smoking materials.

**Award(s):** Valor (Furlong), Group Meritorious Conduct

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**SAUGUS FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**BUILDING FIRE, RESCUE**

**Nominee(s):**
Lieutenant William Cross III
Firefighter Anthony Arone

Lt. William Cross and Firefighter Anthony Arone encountered heavy smoke as they entered an apartment building on the evening of July 25, 2018. Searching for victims without a hose line and experiencing technical problems with the thermal imaging camera, the two firefighters reverted to their training and found the resident by listening and following sounds. Lt. Cross heard coughing and they found the man on the floor of the kitchen enveloped in thick disorienting smoke. They dragged him down the hallway and outside. He was taken to the hospital, where he spent a month recuperating.

**Award(s):** Group Meritorious Conduct

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**SUDBURY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**ICE RESCUE**

**Nominee(s):**
Lieutenant Alex Gardner
Firefighter/EMT Russell Place
Firefighter-P Michael Donoghue Jr.

It was a cold February afternoon when Sudbury firefighters responded to Willis Pond, for a man who had been cross-country skiing and fell through the ice. He had placed the 911 call, but his location was unknown. Firefighter Place and Firefighter Donoghue saw movement through binoculars on the far side of the lake near a swamp. The only way to access that area was by foot so they put on their survival suits and started walking through 800 feet of snow and ice to reach the skier. Once they got there, they headed out onto the ice with a rope. Firefighter Donoghue was crawling over the ice when it collapsed underneath him, and he fell into the water. Fortunately, he was secured to Place by a tether line and they soon reached the man who at this point, had been in the water for more than 30 minutes and was severely hypothermic. Firefighter Donoghue and Firefighter Place secured the man and Lt. Gardner came across the ice and snow on the rescue sled. The man was taken to Emerson Hospital but released later that day.

**Award(s):** Group Meritorious Conduct
WESTBOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT  COMMUNITY SERVICE

Nominee(s):
Captain Daniel J. Hehir

Mental health and job-related stress management was rarely openly discussed in the fire service until very recently. However, several fire personnel have been working behind the scenes to combat this issue for many years. Captain Daniel Hehir, a 25-year member of the Westborough Fire Department has been a member of the Concord/Carlisle Peer Support Unit within Fire District 14 for the last eight years. He has also volunteered to be on-call for a large EMS service in central Massachusetts for peer support. Working within the Concord/Carlisle Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) team, Captain Hehir has worked with firefighters and police officers in the aftermath of line of duty deaths, civilian tragedies, and made many personal interventions. The public is always grateful to first responders who answer the call to often headline grabbing incidents. Captain Hehir helps to ensure that those first responders have the tools and resources they need after the incident so that they can stay healthy and be ready for the next call.

Award(s): Excellence in Leadership

WESTBOROUGH FIRE DEPARTMENT  ICE RESCUE

Nominee(s):
Firefighter Carl Roche  Firefighter Barry Sullivan

Firefighters arrived at Mill Pond on a sunny, but cold, day on January 14. A witness could not pinpoint exactly where his friend had fallen through the ice. Firefighters Barry Sullivan and Carl Roche were the first to arrive, donned their cold-water suits, and headed towards the sounds with a life safety rope and flotation device. After walking about 2,000 feet from shore, they found the man in the water, very weak and distressed. Firefighter Sullivan anchored himself to Firefighter Roche and entered the water. After he placed a flotation device on the victim, he tried several times to push the man up and out of the water, but the ice kept breaking beneath them. Firefighter Roche pushed the victim to a small island, established footing and pulled them both out of the water. Onshore crews tied several safety ropes together to get the inflatable boat out to the island and pull them all to safety. The man suffered from hypothermia, was distressed and reported not being able to feel his arms or legs. He was transported to UMass Memorial Hospital in Worcester. The rescue took 11 minutes from start to finish.

Award(s): Group Meritorius Conduct
It was the middle of the night on March 19, when Worcester Fire responded to a 3-alarm fire at an 8-unit apartment building. Heavy fire was visible on the second and third floors, with people screaming from the windows. Smoke was pushing through to the upper floors. Engine 3 immediately set up a ground ladder and removed four occupants from a second-floor window, while Ladder 2 set up their aerial to the third floor and rescued a woman. Firefighter Lea Caldwell started up Ladder 2 under heavy smoke and tried to help a distraught woman onto the aerial. She was panicked and accidentally dislodged Firefighter Caldwell’s face piece who took in a face full of heavy smoke. Firefighter Caldwell quickly composed herself, fixed the face piece and went on to help two more people escape. She was able to remain at the tip of the aerial and help both residents down the ladder. Seventy firefighters responded to this fire. Seven occupants, including two children, were rescued and brought to the hospital.

Award(s): Valor (Caldwell), Group Meritorious Conduct

Firefighter Christopher Roy was working his regular shift when he responded to a basement fire in the middle of the night on December 9, 2018. Upon arrival, Roy and Ladder 4 began extending a hose line to the basement, until they were redirected to help on the second floor. While on the second floor, fire broke out on the first-floor enclosed porch. Believing that the front stairs were compromised, the seven firefighters on the second floor started searching for another way out. Eventually, five firefighters exited through the front windows. Firefighter Roy and another firefighter were separated from the rest and worked their way back to the rear of the building. Clutter and an atypical layout made movement difficult. When they reached the window, they were low on air. The rapid intervention team met the first firefighter and was told the other firefighter was right behind him. However, Firefighter Roy did not come down. Members of the rescue company went up the ladder and through the window and found the unconscious Roy. They swapped out his air supply with a new tank and deployed many different rescue techniques. Once out of the building, he was transferred to the hospital, where it was announced that he had succumbed to his injuries. Firefighter Roy was a two-and-a-half-year member of the department. He is survived by his 10-year-old daughter, parents and a brother.

Award(s): Medal of Honor